

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05 /065 W  
-----022729 311225Z /53

R 310950Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 263  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4685

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, BG  
SUBJ: CALLAS FOR RELEASE OF FORMER PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE

1. DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL  
NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND RALLIES WHICH HAVE CALLED UPON THE  
ZIA REGIME TO RELEASE FORMER PRESIDENT KHONDAKAR MUSHTAQUE  
AHMAD OR AT A MINIMUM PERMIT HIM TO APPEAL HIS TWO  
CONVICTIONS TO CIVIL COURTS.

2. WHILE THESE HAVE BEEN HELD GENERALLY BY GROUPS OF  
LAWYERS OR POLITICIANS IN LOCATIONS OUTSIDE DACCA, ON JULY  
30 IN THE CAPITAL A MEETING WAS CONVENED AT WHICH THE  
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER WAS ONE TIME EAST PAKISTAN CHIEF MINISTER  
ATAUR RAHMAN KHAN. ATAUR RAHMAN SAID THAT MUSHTAQUE SHOULD  
BE RELEASED BY AUGUST 15 AND ALLOWED TO PURSUE HIS CASES  
THROUGH THE CIVIL COURTS. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED TWO  
PROMINENT MEMBERS OF MUSHTAQUE'S NOW BANNED DEMOCRATIC  
LEAGUE, PIR MOHSENUDDIN AND OLI AHAD.

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3. REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN  
CARRIED OUT IN THE BENGALI PRESS AND THEN USUALLY  
OMITTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED SEGMENTS OF  
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS. HOWEVER, THE NEWS OF THE JULY 30  
MEETING WAS CARRIED IN THE ENGLISH PRESS (THE MAJOR TWO  
OF WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED) AS WELL AS THE  
BENGALI.

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME OF ZIA'S ADVISORS (E.G., THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE) HAE BEEN URGING THE PRESIDENT TO FIND A MEANS THROUGH WHICH TO RELEASE MUSHTAQUE AND, IF POSSIBLE, EFFECT A RECONCILIATION WITH HIM. MUSHTAQUE REMAINS, EVEN IN JAIL, THE POLITICIAN WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOJ ELECTORAL ACTIVITY AND MIGHT BE USEFUL TO ZIA AS AN ALLY, ALTHOUGH IT MUST ALSO BE NOTED THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE UNDER SUSPICION OF SOME COMPLICITY (BY OMISSION OR COMMISSION) IN THE MURDERS OF MUJIB IN AUGUST AND OF THE JAILED AWAMI LEAGUERS IN NOVEMBER, 1975.

5. ZIA'S RESPONSE TO THE APPEALS CANNOT BE PREDICTED, BUT ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO HIM HE HAS CONSIDERED SOME MOVE WHICH BOTH HE AND MUSHTAQUE CAN ACCEPT.  
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALLAS FOR RELEASE OF FORMER PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, BG, (MUSHTAQUE, KHONDAKAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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